United States Embassy Seoul, Republic of Korea Security Message for U.S. Citizens: Seoul Anti-US Demonstrations Planned for Saturday, June 24, 2017 Date: June 23, 2017

U.S. Embassy Seoul informs U.S. citizens that a civil society group is planning to stage a large-scale anti-U.S. demonstration in downtown Seoul on Saturday, June 24, 2017. Supporters plan to gather at Seoul City Hall Plaza. The demonstration is scheduled to commence at 3:00 p.m. and to conclude at 8:00 p.m. Korean authorities are anticipating approximately 3,000 supporters. After gathering, protesters plan to march to Citizen Park along two routes that would allow the group to encircle the U.S. Embassy. The U.S. Embassy is located in Gwanghwamun Square, site of several tourist attractions, including the Gyeongbokgung Palace. U.S. Embassy employees have been directed to avoid the area between 4 and 8 p.m. on Saturday, June 24th. Police authorities will close multiple traffic lanes to facilitate the march.

U.S. citizens are advised to avoid areas where demonstrations are taking place and exercise caution in the vicinity of any large gatherings, protests, or demonstrations. Even demonstrations intended to be peaceful can turn confrontational and escalate into violence.

Contact the U.S. embassy or consulate for up-to-date information on travel restrictions. You can also call 1-888-407-4747 toll-free in the United States and Canada or 1-202-501-4444 from other countries. These numbers are available from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Eastern Time, Monday through Friday (except U.S. federal holidays). Follow us on Twitter and Facebook to have travel information at your fingertips. Review your personal security plans, remain aware of your surroundings, including local events, and monitor local news stations for updates. Be vigilant and take appropriate steps to enhance your personal security.

We strongly recommend that U.S. citizens traveling or residing abroad enroll in the Department of State's Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP) at the State Department's website. STEP enrollment gives you the latest security updates and makes it easier for the U.S. embassy or nearest U.S. consulate to contact you in an emergency. If you don't have Internet access, enroll directly at the nearest U.S. embassy or consulate.

Monitor the current Travel Warnings and Travel Alerts, and the Worldwide Caution on the State Department's website. Read the Country Specific Information for Republic of Korea. For additional information, refer to the "Traveler's Checklist".

The U.S. Embassy in Seoul is located at 188 Sejong-daero, Jongno-gu and is open from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., telephone 02-397-4000. If you are a U.S. citizen in need of urgent assistance outside of business hours, the emergency after-hours number for the U.S. Embassy/Consulate is 02-397-4114.